

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 8, 2004, has been carefully considered. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended the claims as indicated above, and requests that the Examiner consider the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1 - 7 remain pending. Claims 5 – 7 are allowed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

The title, as found on page 1, line 1 of the application has been amended for consistency to conform with the title appearing on the Oath and Declaration, Data Sheet, and Official Filing Receipt.

The claims have been amended to a scope that is considered to be allowable in view of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kramer. Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunnum. Claims 5 – 7 were allowed.

U.S. Patent No. 3,512,301, issued to Kramer, discloses a reclining baby bottle holder comprising a tube for receiving a baby bottle, a first ring attached in surrounding relation with one end and a second ring attached in surrounding relation with the opposing end. The bottle holder produces sound using a rattle. Kramer neither teaches, nor suggests, use of an electronic sound module to generate audible sound.

The present inventor's prior patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kramer. Specifically, U.S. Patent No. 6,037,872 discloses a baby bottle that includes one or more removable handles with integral voice chips received therein. The integral voice chips are electrically actuated by a mechanical thermostat received within a portion of the handle that is grasped by a user. Upon the thermostat sensing a predetermined temperature, a pair of timer circuits in communication therewith activates the voice chip. When the thermostat detects a temperature below the predetermined value, the timer circuits disable the voice chip after a predetermined duration. Accordingly, when a baby or other user grasps the handle, music or other sound recordings will be automatically emitted. When the baby releases the handle, the voice chip will be deactivated within a predetermined duration thereafter. The '872 patent is limited in that it fails to either teach or suggest a configuration adapted for receiving a plurality of voice chips so as to provide the user with a variety of interchangeable musical and/or educational audible recordings.

Claim 1 has been amended to a scope considered allowable in view of the cited art. More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to recite a handle assembly having a module-receiving compartment adapted with a clip means for removably securing an electronic sound module. Support for the amendment is found throughout the application. See, e.g. Pg. 6, lines 8 – 10 ("The sound modules are interchangeable and the production of multiple sound modules provides the user with a variety of sounds to choose from.").

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein it is believed that that claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinguishable as the prior art fails to either teach or suggest a baby bottle adapted with a module receptacle configured to receive interchangeable electronic sound modules. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests a favorable action on this case.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or concerns, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference in order to expedite this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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